

REMARKS

This election is in response to the Office Action, dated January 25, 2007 ("Office Action"). Following entry of the present election, claims 1-7 remain pending; claims 8-18 having been withdrawn. Examination of the pending claims in view of the foregoing election and ensuing remarks is respectfully requested.

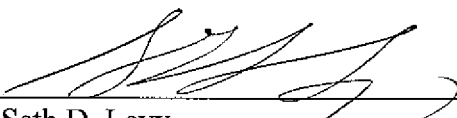
In the Office Action, Examiner required election among aspects of the claimed invention depicted in Groups I and II under 35 U.S.C. §121. These Groups included the following:

- I. Claims 1-7: drawn to the intracellular estradiol binding protein ("IEBP") polypeptide; and
- II. Claims 8-18: drawn to the isolated IEBP polynucleotide as well as vectors, host cells, a process of producing the polypeptide and a process for producing cells.

Applicants hereby elect the embodiment of the instant invention described in **Group I** (claims 1-7) for prosecution on the merits. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the claims drawn to non-elected embodiments of the present invention in one or more divisional applications.

All of the claims in the application are believed to be allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. If for any reason Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 633-6800 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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